

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News

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FLATIRON ON FLATBUSH

Downtown tower mimics Gaphattan icon

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

It looks like the lovechild of the Flatiron Building and a spaceship — but this just-unveiled rendering of a luxury condo planned for the gateway to Downtown is the latest attempt to bring Manhattan across the river.

"This is the start of a renais-

sance of this whole area," the building's architect, Ismael Leyva, told The Brooklyn Papers this week, noting his plans for a 22-story tower on the triangular-shaped lot at Flatbush Avenue Extension and Tillary and Duffield streets.

Leyva said his design was inspired not only by the Flatiron Building, but also by wanting to play a role in the further Man-

hattanization of Brooklyn.

He meant it in a good way. "We are transferring what we are doing in Manhattan to Brooklyn," said the New York-based architect, who is the designer of adjacent twin luxury towers on Gold Street, which will stand 40 and 35 stories, and "two or three" other buildings already in the works for the short stretch from the Manhat-

tan Bridge to DeKalb Avenue.

The area was upzoned two years ago to encourage the kind of development that Leyva and others are rushing to begin. As The Brooklyn Papers reported last month, there are at least eight towers — some office buildings, some residential, but none of them inexpensive — in various stages of development.

"This whole area is going to feel like Manhattan," Leyva said. "The aesthetics are changing. Everything is changing. It's new."

From the way Leyva's press agent gushed, the 108-unit building is actually old — as in old money.

"Almost every apartment has a balcony showcasing the views of Manhattan and Brooklyn's

skylines and bridges," Leyva's publicist said in a statement.

"Elaborate duplex units will have two fireplaces. The structure's fragile volume will be emphasized through the building's setbacks and repetitive balconies, and a powerful, curved shape will enhance the sharp intersection, giving the building a strong personality," the publicist said.



A 22-story luxury condominium designed by Ismael Leyva will rise in Brooklyn at 85 Flatbush Ave. Ext.

White flight ... to Brooklyn

Population pendulum is swinging back the other way

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn is getting whiter, the Census Bureau reported last week, confirming many residents' unscientific observations.

Between 2004 and 2005, the number of blacks in the borough decreased by approximately 20,000, while the number of whites increased by more than 66,000 [see chart].

"The trend is very significant," said Pedro Noguera, a demographer at New York University. "The city is gentrifying rapidly, and rising property values are driving people out."

The "gentrification" trend has been obvious since the Brownstone Brooklyn revival took root in the 1970s. The trend accelerated in recent years as numerous upscale residential developments were

Population shift

Numbers of residents in Brooklyn, according to the Census Bureau.

	2004	2005	Shift
Black	920,684	879,790	4.4-percent decrease
White	964,171	1,030,543	6.9-percent increase

planned in adjacent neighborhoods, and could advance further if projects such as Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards and the condo-infused Brooklyn Bridge Park come on-line.

Sociologists say the shift also reflects the migration of lower-wage-earners, the majority of whom happen to be black, to the south. Middle- and upper-income blacks are not leaving at the same rate. Noguera warns that the city cannot flourish without low-

wage earners.

"You need people are willing to work low-wage jobs to keep the city running," he said. But Queens College demographer Andrew Beveridge saw the trend in a more neutral light, saying the population shift is actually a long-term trend.

"The black population [in Brooklyn] would have been declining for over 25 years were it not for the Caribbean immigrants coming in," said Beveridge.

"Meanwhile, there's tremendous numbers of kids coming into Park Slope, Boerum Hill, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Flatbush and Canarsie."

These mid-decade Census numbers are part of the Bureau's American Community Survey, a new program that supplies demographic data on an annual basis rather than every 10 years.

The report also showed:

• The number of college-educated Brooklynites increased by 50,000, or a hard-to-believe 23 percent.

• The number of Brooklynites of Asian descent increased by more than 4,200, or 19 percent.

• Native Hawaiian Brooklynites increased by nearly 14 percent — although the Bureau adds that its margin of error is plus or minus more than 100 percent.

State's only Atlantic yards public hearing set for Wednesday

The Brooklyn Papers

The state's only public hearing on the Atlantic Yards arena, office and housing mega-development will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Expect a standing room only crowd — including Atlantic Yards celebrities such as Forest City Ratner Vice President James Stuckey, Develop Don't Destroy spokesman Daniel Goldstein, Atlantic Yards-supporting Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Prospect Heights) and fiery Ratner foe City Councilman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights).

The event is the only scheduled public opportunity to comment on the largest single-developer project in Brooklyn's storied history. A "community forum" will be held on primary election day, Sept. 12.

Wednesday's four-hour hearing will begin at 4:30 pm in New York City College of Technology's Klitgard Auditorium, 285 Jay St., Downtown.

People who want to testify will be asked to sign in, said Jessica Copen, a spokeswoman for the Empire State Development Corporation. Copen also suggested that the hearing could go beyond 8:30 pm if people are still wanting to speak.

— Ariella Cohen

The Russians are running, the Russians are running!

Mud flies as ex-Soviets duel for Dyker district

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

They may have been born in the Soviet Union, but two candidates for a Dyker Heights Assembly seat have certainly learned about democracy, Brooklyn-style.

The two men — Ari Kagan, 39, a Minsk-born reporter for the Russian Jewish Forward, and Alec Brook-Krasy, 48, the Moscow-born head of the Jewish Enlightenment Community Organization — are battling to succeed retiring Assemblywoman Adele Cohen. But they're not battling over the issues.

Sounding more like embittered

characters from a Gogol novel, the pair has traded increasingly bizarre allegations — most of them with roots back to their native lands.

The most vicious (so far) comes from Brook-Krasy, who says that Kagan, who moved to Brooklyn in 1993, has ties to the KGB, the Soviet Union's spy agency.

"Kagan graduated from the military school of Soviet propaganda, and some [bloggers] are saying that means he was somehow involved in the KGB," explained Brook-Krasy, who has lived in Brighton Beach for 14 years.

But Kagan says that he graduated from a Soviet school of journalism. "I had nothing to do with the

KGB," said Kagan. "Brook-Krasy [is] not a smart person. Most men were in the Soviet army. It was mandatory service."

Kagan has leveled some outrageous charges of his own. "Brook-Krasy" called me on my cell at the end of March and said, 'If you don't stop running, I will do everything to put a lot of dirt on you,'" recalled Kagan. "Your children will be ashamed to walk on the street."

Brook-Krasy calls that a bald-faced lie.

"When I hear something like this, I'm not surprised, because [Kagan] graduated from the school of Soviet propaganda,"

The 46th assembly district seat came up for grabs when Cohen, a four-term lawmaker, decided not to run for re-election.

The bitter battle to replace her is no surprise to Marty Levine, a longtime political insider who dropped out of the contest because he didn't have the stomach for all the mud.

"They're all a bunch of alligators," said Levine. "This is politics, Brooklyn style."

The vitriol has little to do with the candidates' politics, which are remarkably similar.

Both Democrats are longtime civic leaders who list affordable housing and education as primary issues.

See VOTE on page 6



Alec Brook-Krasy



Ari Kagan at an event this week in Coney Island.

ART ATTACK!

Museum regroup

By David K. Randall
for The Brooklyn Papers

For a museum that once hanged a painting of the Virgin Mary adorned with elephant dung, a behind-the-scenes staffing change would seem like the last thing to cause controversy.

But a major staff reorganization plan announced earlier this summer by the Brooklyn Museum has critics again questioning whether the venerable institution has turned away from scholarship and art in favor of popularity.

In other words, does the Brooklyn Museum want to be the class nerd or the cool kid? Either way, the Museum wants to do more with less, it says. The "curatorial reorganization plan" revealed last month would do away with a system that had specialized curators working behind the scenes to weave together exhibits [see GoBrooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis's news analysis, right].

Curators will now collaborate with educators and designers, who have traditionally worked only on the presentation, not the content, of an exhibition.

Curators, expectedly, are having an art attack. The Association of Art Museum Curators, a national group, said the Brooklyn plan "undermines the traditional vocation of the curator-as-scholar whose commitment to a particular collection renders him or her uniquely qualified to make recommendations regarding its care and interpretation."

But the larger issue is how the changes will play out for customers. Even before the latest reorganization, the museum had begun resorting to quick-fix attendance boosters, like the current graffiti show or the 2002 "Star Wars: The Magic of Myth" exhibit, to counteract declining attendance.

A 2000 show, "Hip-Hop Nation: Roots, Rhymes and Rage," drew large crowds, but

See MUSEUM SHUFFLE on page 14



Brooklyn Museum Director Arnold Lehman at the "Hip-Hop Nation" gala in September 2000.

Proud to be abnormal

Despite naysayers, shake-up has big upside

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

News coverage about a curator shuffle at the Brooklyn Museum suggested that the museum's exhibition schedule would soon become a bleak array of drivel targeted to the lowest common denominator.

But that's as likely to happen at the Prospect Heights institution as a visit from Picasso.

In fact, the curatorial reorganization is more likely to be a boon for the museum's fans, ensuring that more exhibits — culled from the museum's vast collection — will be displayed instead of much-maligned, memorabilia-heavy shows rented from other museums in past years, such as "Star Wars" and "Hip-Hop Nation."

The museum's reorganization may even end up attracting more visitors, including first-timers — and that's good news, Museum Director Arnold Lehman told me in an exclusive interview.

"Reaching out to broader audiences should be seen as a huge accomplishment, not as a crime," Lehman

said. "One of my greatest regrets is that so many of my colleagues feel that it is a crime. This is a tax-supported institution. Everyone who pays taxes deserves the same treatment, same accessibility, and the same opportunity as the person who gives us a million dollars."

"We have among the youngest and certainly the most diverse audiences in America, and I think that's something to be really proud of," he added. "We're not forsaking our traditional audiences, believe me. But at the same time, we have audiences who are coming to this institution that have never come before. ... People, I guess, feel easily threatened when they see people they don't expect to see in a museum. But they should be thrilled, not upset."

Walls come down

Like most innovations, necessity was the mother of invention. With finances looking grim, Lehman said he — along with Deputy Director of Art Charles Desrosiers and Chief Curator Kevin Station — was forced to reorganize the curatorial staff in July. Under the new alignment, the museum's 18 curators have been divided

See FOR THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM on page 14



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BROOKLYN BRIEFS



Diamondstone back on ballot

The Brooklyn Papers

He's back, but not necessarily better than ever.

A Brooklyn judge put state Senate candidate Ken Diamondstone back on the Sept. 12 primary ballot in his race against longtime state Sen. Marty Connor, ruling last week that the Board of Elections wrongly decided that Diamondstone had moved into the Brooklyn Heights district less than the required full year before Election Day.

"A board of elections has 'no power to deal with ... extrinsic matters (such as) a candidate's residency,'" Judge Ira Harkavy ruled, quoting prior precedent in *Schwartz v. Hefernan*, 1952.

Diamondstone is challenging the 28-year incumbent, whose appeal of Harkavy's ruling was turned down by the Appellate Division.

"Connor's attempt to get me off the ballot is an assault on democracy," Diamondstone said, but admitted that Connor's challenge to his candidacy, plus the subsequent appeal, is taking a toll.

"It's a cheap ploy to drain my resources," said Diamondstone, a member of Community Board 2. "He knows we have raised more money, so he's trying to sap us any way he can."

Diamondstone has loaned his campaign \$200,000, while Connor has roughly one-fifth that amount on hand, Connor's spokesman said.

Connor argued that he was not trying to avoid his first primary fight since 1992, but merely defending the state Constitution, which requires that candidates live in the district for at least one year prior to Election Day.

Diamondstone presented evidence that he and his partner Joseph Kopitz moved into their 200 Clinton St. apartment on Nov. 1—six days before the deadline.

It was clearly their new home, the judge agreed, because they "sent out approximately 1,500 personalized greeting cards" with the new address and "hired an interior decorator."

—Gerish Kuntzman



Ken Diamondstone



Marty Connor

Barron: Bush should pardon Marcus Garvey

The Brooklyn Papers

If a city councilman has his way, President Bush will take time off from pressing issues like slashing the estate tax and banning same-sex marriage to pardon a man who's been dead since 1964.

The man is Marcus Garvey, a Black Power pioneer and civil rights leader who was convicted of mail fraud in 1923 in a prosecution widely regarded today as racially motivated.

"Marcus Garvey [did] more in our country for black people than any

other leader," said City Councilman Charles Barron (D-Canarsie), who introduced a resolution on Wednesday calling for the Council to demand Garvey's pardon.

"All the great black leaders were influenced by him, and [the government] came after him unjustifiably."

The civil rights leader spent three months in prison before being deported to his native Jamaica.

Last year, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-Manhattan) introduced a bill to pardon Garvey, but the legislation is stuck in the Republican-controlled House Judiciary Committee.

Barron's resolution—which the Council will take up this fall—would do little but call on "Congress and president to support Rangel's resolution," said Barron.

"I wanted to give it more life, because it hasn't gotten the attention that it needs." —Dana Rubinstein

Minerva keeps view

Latest appeal is rejected by city

The Brooklyn Papers

The Goddess of War won another battle this week.

A city appeals panel on Tuesday rejected a developer's last-ditch effort to rescue his proposed South Slope condo tower—known as "The Minerva Building" because it threatens to block a historic view between the Greenwood Cemetery monument and the Statue of Liberty (see circle in photo at right).

The city Department of Buildings blocked construction of the Robert Scarano-designed complex on the grounds that it is larger than allowed under new zoning.

Developer Chaim Nussencweig has been appealing that decision on the grounds that the foundation of the building was in place when the new zoning went into effect earlier this year.

To bolster his case, Nussencweig's attorney gave the Board of Standards and Appeals new blueprints that he said had been "lost" by the Department of Buildings—evidence, he said, that the agency isn't capable of judging whether the Minerva building's foundation was or was not sufficiently completed.

But the BSA rejected Nussencweig's argument, an interview before the panel rules on the foundation question next month.

Minerva's South Slope neighbors cheered the ruling.

"[Nussencweig] may be playing with the truth and the city picked up on it," said Aaron Brashers, who has been fighting to preserve the low-scale character of his neighborhood since designs for 614 Seventh Ave. were unveiled.

—Ariella Cohen



Henry pile-up

for The Brooklyn Papers

No, they're not parking in a driveway—but these two cars made one, after crashing into a Henry Street house on Aug. 13 (right).

One of the SUVs—witnesses aren't sure which one—ran a red light at the corner of Congress and Henry streets and collided with the other SUV as it headed down Henry.

Both cars then ended up in the unfortunate resident's garden.

And it's not the first smash-up at the busy Cobble Hill corner.

"People run the light all the time," says John Quadrozzi Jr., a Congress Street resident and member of Community Board 6.

Quadrozzi and others have called for increased police presence at the corner, plus rerouting Congress Street to send traffic to Atlantic Avenue, two blocks north.



They can commit

for The Brooklyn Papers

They say you can judge a person by the company he keeps, but when candidates are concerned, perhaps you can judge them by the legislative committee on which they dream of serving.

The four candidates for the borough's lone open congressional seat have different views on what committee assignment would best serve the central Brooklyn district.

City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke (D-Flatbush) and City Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) have both said they'd want a spot on the House Judiciary Committee—but for different reasons.

For Clarke, the committee

would allow her to work on immigration reform, while Yassky would use the appointment to focus on gun control, said campaign manager Gregory Joseph.

Candidate Chris Owens vowed to win his father's seat in Congress—and on the Education Committee "because 1.1 million schoolchildren deserve a representative," he said.

Andrews also jumped on the Education committee bandwagon.

"With the schools in such bad shape, sitting on the Education committee is a priority for me," he emailed through his spokesperson. "I also want the Appropriations committee."

Good luck. There are no freshmen on the highly sought-after panel. —Rachel Monahan



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Senior cleaned out while she cleaned up

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

68th Precinct

A thief robbed an 80-year-old woman who had been temporarily distracted by spilled groceries at a Dyker Heights supermarket on Aug. 10, police said.

The victim's shopping bag busted open at the 79th Street grocery store, near 13th Avenue, at around 1 p.m. When the woman went in search of cleaning supplies — leaving her purse behind, inside the shopping cart — the thief pounced.

When the victim returned, her pocketbook was open and her wallet gone. Inside were a pair of gas station charge cards, a Sears card, and her New York State driver's license.

Hands clean

Police are hunting for a man who had been lurking around a Bay Ridge nail salon and is suspected of stealing an employee's purse stuffed with \$200.

The stranger wandered into the beauty shop on Fifth Avenue and 79th Street around 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 8, asked about the prices for manicures and pedicures, and then left. A Staten Island woman working at the salon noticed the man lingering in front of the store, staring through the front window.

Around 12:30 p.m., the 44-year-old employee realized her purse — visible behind the counter from the front window

— had disappeared. She told cops that the luncheon lifted the bag while she ducked into the back room for supplies. In addition to the cash, the pocketbook held several credit cards, her driver's license and keys to a Lincoln Town Car.

Car crimes

Robbers snatched at least two sedans and lifted nearly \$7,000 in electronics and other goods parked on local streets last week, police reports show. A 40-year-old Brooklyn man lost his 1990 Toyota Camry to thieves from its spot on 80th Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. He left the car there at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 8, but when he returned to it 24 hours later, it was gone.

Car thieves also snatched a 1999 Acura owned by a 22-year-old Tennessee woman. The car, parked on Shore Road near 93rd Street, disappeared between 1 p.m. on Aug. 9 and noon the following day. Burglars broke into a Ford Explorer that had been parked on 72nd Street between Second and Third avenues. The 29-year-old owner left the vehicle around 6 p.m. on Aug. 6, but when he returned 12 hours later, the driver's side window was busted and various items valued at nearly \$2,000 were gone.

Missing was a satellite radio set, a radar detector, a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses, two pairs of prescription spectacles, a Samsonite suitcase and a \$20 fan. The thief also broke off

POLICE BLOTTER

the Ford's radio antenna during the heist.

It took only minutes for thieves to snatch a laptop and allegedly worth \$5,000 from a car parked on 87th Street, between Second and Third avenues.

The 27-year-old Staten Island woman who owns the car locked it up at 4:25 p.m. on Aug. 8. When she came back just 20 minutes later, the lock was busted and the laptop gone, cops said.

62nd Precinct

Unsafe at home

A half-dozen thugs armed with a hammer and a lead pipe beat and robbed a man inside his West Sixth Street home on Aug. 11, police said. The six men pushed their way into the apartment, near Avenue P, at 2 a.m. They attacked the 46-year-old victim just inside the front door, beating his head, arms and body with the heavy pipe and hammer.

The robbers then handcuffed the bloodied man and raided his apartment — finding \$2,000. The posse fled with the cash before police arrived.

Midnight robber

A man armed with a black handgun robbed a 48-year-old man as he exited his car on Aug. 12, police said.

The robber rushed his victim from behind as the man stood over his trunk just after midnight, near the corner of Bay Ridge and 17th avenues. He thrust the gun into the man's gut and demanded cash racking the slide for emphasis before he rifled the man's bag.

The thief ran off along 17th Avenue with \$100 in his hand before the victim could focus on his face.

Burg ruins bliss

A thief stole \$5,000 and jewelry from a Sea Gate home while the residents attended a wedding on Aug. 12, police said.

When the 44-year-old victim returned from the nuptials around 5:30 p.m., she discovered someone had sneaked into her home on Highland Avenue, near Surf Avenue.

The thief came through the side window, cleaned out the safe and left through a side door.

Smoke signals

Maybe the smoky plume will lead cops to their man.

Police are looking for a thief who snatched \$1,000 and hundreds of cigarettes during an armed robbery at a bodega on Avenue O and West Tenth Street on Aug. 11.

The robber rushed inside around 1:45 a.m. with his silver handgun drawn and demanded six cartons of smokes, plus

the cash, then disappeared into the inky darkness.

Armed attack

A pair of thugs toted a pistol robbed a young man walking to work around dawn on Aug. 8, police said.

One robber approached the 20-year-old as he walked along

Crosey Avenue, near 24th Avenue, at 5:30 a.m. and pushed him up against a steel gate. As the second thief dashed from across the street, the first one pulled a gun from his waistband and insisted, "Give me all of your stuff."

The second hood rifled the victim's pockets, removed an

unknown amount of cash, his cellphone and other electronics before the pair disappeared into the dark.

Bite crime

A 70-year-old man suffered a chop on his hand during an Aug. 8 robbery, police said. The thief approached the

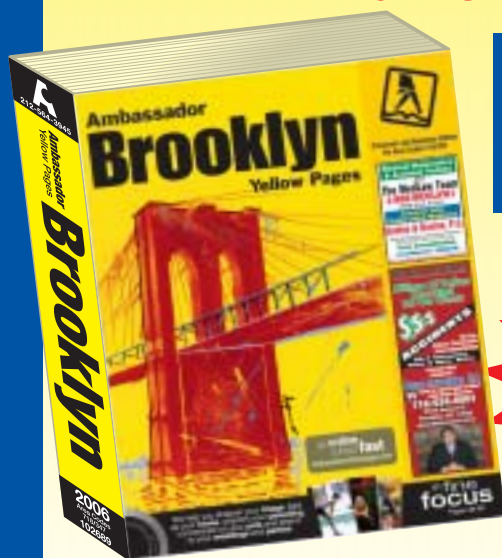
victim on the corner of 76th Street and 17th Avenue around 6:15 a.m., grabbed the man's hand and slipped it between his teeth and bit down. The robber — who didn't wound the victim — plucked the wallet from the man's pants, snatched \$60 and dashed off.

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Life or death: \$20 choice

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A man possibly armed with a gun posed a simple question — but didn't get the answer he had hoped for — during a hold-up of a Boerum Hill boutique on Aug. 10.

The thug rushed into the clothing store on Bond Street, near Pacific Street, around 3:30 p.m., with something that looked like a gun under his shirt, police said. He turned to the 34-year-old clerk and insisted: "Life or death — choose. Give me the money."

The woman turned to the cash register and removed \$20, which she turned over to the thief. But that didn't satisfy the robber, who demanded that she also give up her purse.

When the victim informed him she didn't carry a purse, the thief's frustration turned to violence. He lunged at the woman, grabbed her and snatched her by the neck, throwing her in a headlock, police said.

Somewhere the woman managed to twist herself free and the robber ran off along Bond Street. Police are now searching for a black man, roughly 5-foot-8-inches tall, 210 pounds, wearing eyeglasses and dressed in blue jeans and a yellow tank-top.

Ring wrath

Transit police arrested a 28-year-old man who beat up his fiancée in a failed effort to recapture an engagement ring during an Aug. 6 brawl aboard the A train.

The angry man followed his 24-year-old one-future wife when she left his home in Far Rockaway and boarded the Manhattan-bound subway at Mott Avenue sometime around 5 p.m.

The argument over the ring that began at home continued, growing more vicious and, when she refused to return the jewelry piece, erupting into violence.

The thug grabbed her arm and twisted it behind her back, forcing her to the floor of the subway car while trying to pry the rock from her ring finger. She squirmed and resisted, keeping hold of her prize.

He threw her to the floor again, insisting, "I'm going to do what I have to do to get this ring off your finger."

But the threat turned out to be idle. Transit Police Officer Michael Walsh arrested the one-time bridegroom on attempted robbery charges as the train pulled into the Hoyt-Schermerhorn station, around 5:30 p.m. The bride-to-be (or not to be) kept her ring.

Copy-cat scores

A thief grabbed a designer handbag full of valuables from atop a Xerox machine while the owner focused on her photocopying at a Court Street shop on Aug. 12, police said.

The 27-year-old victim placed her purse on a nearby copier when she began the print job at around 2:30 p.m. When she finished the project 45 minutes later, the woman realized her bag had disappeared from the shop, near Montague Street. The Coach handbag, valued at \$300, contained a mini-green iPod, a cellphone, credit cards and \$80, police said.

Smash for cash

Someone broke through the wall of a Smith Street check-cashing business and emptied the safe of \$10,000 cash and Metrocards, police said.

A 55-year-old employee of the store, near Wyckoff Street, arrived at 6:20 a.m. on Aug. 11 to find the front door open. He found mysterious wires on the ground near the second door and when he reached the third

POLICE BLOTTER

and final door the burglary became clear. The man could see the store's safe, its door open and inside empty of cash, and a hole smashed in the wall next to the locked door.

Door-gone

Call it the mystery of the disappearing door.

An aluminum and glass interior door vanished without a trace last week from the front of an apartment building on Livingston Street between Bond and Nevins streets. A 38-year-old representative of the trust that owns the place said the portal was in place at 10 p.m. on Aug. 5, but 12 hours

later, it was gone.

Thirsty visitor

Police are looking for a man named "Germaine" after the fellow followed a girl home from the bus, forced his way into her apartment, and refused to leave on Aug. 8.

The man tracked the 12-year-old victim from the B25 bus to her home on Putnam Avenue near Classon Avenue, asking her questions along the way. He wanted to know her name and other details, and pushed his way past her when she opened her front door around noon.

The man, who told her his name was "Germaine," asked for a glass of water and lingered in her living room, terrifying the teen. He did not physically hurt her.

Police are looking for a black man with a mustache, five-foot-nine, with short hair and what the girl described as "strange" eyes and teeth. He wore black shorts, black sneakers, and a striped shirt.

Band-Aid bash

A man suffered a head wound when his co-worker lobbed a metal box of medical supplies at him during an argument on August 12.

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One held the 44-year-old victim as another bashed him repeatedly with a baseball bat, leaving a gash on his head.
Another thug lobbed an empty Corona bottle at the victim's noggin.
Police Officer Kensington Cunningham of the 76th Precinct made the two callers — both men, ages 20 and 23 — and booked them for assault.
— Lilo H. Stainton

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Burglar prefers boxers

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

A burglar revealed his preference in underwear when he stole six pairs of boxers, several T-shirts and a backpack from a Fifth Avenue store on Aug. 9 — and assaulted the clerk to boot.

Police nabbed the 44-year-old skivvies-snatcher after he waged the bloody battle with a 30-year-old store clerk around 2:30 pm.

The woman caught him trying to lift \$85 in underwear plus \$45 in cash — from the

POLICE BLOTTER

shop, which is near Flatbush Avenue.

Two witnesses, plus the victim, who suffered cuts and bruises to her head, neck and arms, helped Police Officer Raul Dueno of the 78th Precinct capture the thief and recover the purloined underpants.

10G missing

A landlady lost \$10,000 stuffed in a plastic bag when he left the loot on the counter of Park Slope diner on Aug. 9, police said.

The man told police he had been on vacation for three weeks and was headed to the bank with rent his wife had collected from his two buildings and a store. He entered the diner, just off Flatbush Avenue, at around 11 am and set the money bag on the counter.

Apparently, he wandered out of the restaurant 20 minutes later and forgot to bring the bag. When he turned back, it was gone — and no one saw a thing.

Almost home

A young woman walking into her Tenth Street building was attacked by a robber on Aug. 8, police said.

The 24-year-old was entering the vestibule when the thief pushed through the door behind her, around 10:40 pm. Once inside, he grabbed her shoulder bag, and the two started to struggle over the loot. The woman suffered bruises to her head, legs and body when she smashed into a wall and fell onto the pavement during the tussle.

The robber eventually wrenched the bag free and fled down Fifth Avenue. A passerby later found the victim's wallet

and returned it, but the thief escaped with \$20, the woman's cellphone and a CD player. She described him as a curly- and dark-haired man who wore a tan hat and blue jeans.

Snagged

Police arrested two young teens who allegedly stole a Motorola Razzr cellphone from a woman walking along Seventh Avenue on Aug. 10.

The 46-year-old victim said her phone rang as she was strolling between Second and Third streets around 12:45 pm. When she flipped it open to answer, a teenager rushed up and grabbed the gadget before he and a fellow teen ran off.

Officer Christopher Sweeney of the 78th Precinct caught up with and arrested the alleged phone-snatcher on Second Street and charged the 14-year-old boy with grand larceny. His 15-year-old accomplice got away, but then returned to the crime scene, where he, too, was charged.

Officer Sweeney recovered the stolen phone and collected several photographs and a black bag as evidence.

Birders at fault?

A teenage volunteer with the Audubon Society lost her wallet to a thief who visited the Litchfield Villa in Prospect Park during her shift on Aug. 5, police said.

The 18-year-old said she dropped her bag behind a table inside the public building off Prospect Park West, near Fourth Street. An hour later, at 6 pm, the billfold inside was gone. The victim said she never moved more than 20-feet from the bag.

The wallet held bank information, a learner's permit, a Seaton Hall identification card, her library card and \$3.

Hot heist

A Park Slope thief wasted little time in his quest to beat any heat still hanging around last week.

The burglar stole two fans and a pair of air-conditioning units from a Pacific Street building vacant for less than 15 minutes on Aug. 7, police said. A surveillance camera at the site captured the thief removing the two Fedex units, valued at \$200 each, and the 18-inch Honeywell pedestal fans, from the spot, near Flatbush Avenue.

The video footage also showed the burglar drive off in a white car. Police are looking for a bald, goateed black man in his late 30s, 6-foot-1 and 180 pounds. He wore black work boots and a yellow tank top during the heist.

Fun's over

Talk about a buzz kill. Someone snatched a high-end laptop, a 30-gigabyte iPod and a trio of video game consoles valued at more than \$3,500 from a home on Prospect Park West, near 13th Street, on Aug. 9, police said.

The thief snuck into the apartment while the 25-year-old tenant was at work, between 10 am and 1:30 am the following morning, and escaped with his victim's Xbox, GameCube and Playstation Portable.

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"They'll Look
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Vito OKs debate after stunt

Challenger Harrison shows up at Fossella's office

By Sarah Vogel
for The Brooklyn Papers

Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) got a special delivery this week from his Democratic opponent — a surprise press conference at his doorstep.

Bay Ridge lawyer Stephen Harrison — who is running against the four-term incumbent — set up shop outside Fossella's Staten Island campaign headquarters armed with just a letter.

The missive — a copy of one that Harrison sent on July 27 — demanded that Fossella schedule a campaign debate.

"We gave him a reasonable period of time to respond [to the first letter]," Harrison said, explaining the need for Wednesday's stunt.

"You don't need three weeks to decide to debate."

Fossella wasn't in the office at the time — he was in Brooklyn delivering a Purple Heart to the family of a World War II veteran.

Too bad. He missed quite a show.

As the cameras clicked, the



Democratic congressional candidate Steve Harrison held a press conference on Wednesday to demand that Rep. Vito Fossella debate him. Here we see Harrison doing his own set-up.

letter-bearing Harrison entered Fossella's office, where less-than-thrilled staffers asked the reporters and photographers to leave and accused Harrison of trespassing.

"Steve, relax," said Matthew Mika, Fossella's campaign manager.

Mika then handed Harrison a freshly minted letter, saying that Fossella had indeed accepted the offer to debate.

After staffers shuffled reporters out of the office, Harrison read Fossella's response out loud, calling it "satisfactory."

"We will contact him as soon as we get back to our office," he said. "I suspect that had there been no press conference, we would not have received the acceptance to debate."

But Mika was far less satisfied by the day's events.

"It's ridiculous that... Steve decided to come over here and have these campaign stunts," he said.

Fossella: I saved VA hospital



Rep. Vito Fossella

By Dana Rubinstein
for The Brooklyn Papers

Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) crowed last week about his role in saving Brooklyn's veterans hospital — but veterans groups said Fossella actually "ranks pretty poor" on issues that affect them.

"Most of our members ... would not vote for him," said Tammy Clowers, a spokeswoman for the Retired Enlisted Association, a national group.

The VA hospital in Bay Ridge, a 171-bed facility that had 310,000 outpatient visits last year, was in danger of being "consolidated" with its Manhattan counterpart to cut costs.

But the hospital was saved thanks to intense lobbying by veterans and many Brooklyn elected officials, including Fossella, who brought in the head of the federal office of veterans affairs for a tour.

As good a deal as that may be, say veterans groups, it hardly makes Fossella a war hero.

"I've never heard of anyone not supporting his local VA hospital," said Clowers.

In fact, national veterans groups give Fossella dismal ratings on issues affecting veterans' quality-of-life.

"Fossella only co-sponsored two votes that were important to our members [out of 14 in 2004]," said Clowers.

The Disabled American Veterans presented an equally unflattering picture of Fossella, saying he only supported the group's key issues 20 percent of the time.

One "key issue" cited by the organization's spokesman was an emergency appropriations bill to cover a billion-dollar shortfall in the Veterans Health Administration budget.

"Fossella voted against it," said David Aveni, the group's spokesman.

But Fossella's campaign disputed that.

"The amendment in question was ruled out of order for violating rules of the House," said campaign spokesman Matthew Mika. "When the appropriate time came, Vito voted to increase the Veterans budget by over \$3 billion. In fact, Vito voted to increase the Veterans budget by over \$30 billion in the last six years alone."

Mika called the interest groups' ratings biased.

"They are meaningless po-

litical tools that are intended to distort an elected official's support for a particular issue or group," he said.

"The people of Brooklyn know that there is no stronger supporter of our nation's veterans and troops than Vito Fossella."

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OUR OPINION

4 hours seal B'klyn's fate

WEDNESDAY MARKS THE FIRST DAY of the rest of Brooklyn's life.

That's when the Empire State Development Corporation holds its sole hearing to allow the public to vent — and do little else — about Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development.

If Ratner's massive, 16-skyscraper, arena, housing and office space development is allowed to take root, hundreds of thousands of people will forever be affected. Yet the ESDC has allotted just four hours — in the middle of summer — to allow the public to share its concerns.

One public hearing is all the agency is required to do by law — and it is certainly doing little more (an unpunctuated "public forum" was added for Sept. 12 — but scheduling it on the night of the Primary Election, when active members of the community will likely be otherwise engaged, is just another bit of ESDC cynicism).

Not even the "required" Wednesday hearing

was widely publicized by the ESDC.

We're not surprised, of course. All along, the ESDC has tried to discourage public review, analysis and discussion of the Ratner project. That's the only plausible explanation for its release of a highly technical, 2,000-page draft environmental impact statement for the project while many people — and all three affected Community Boards — were on vacation.

And for scheduling the sole public hearing for Aug. 23 — just 36 days from the release of that 17-inch-thick document.

And for closing the public comment period after just 66 days.

If the project had been analyzed under the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, rather than the State Environmental Quality Review procedure, the public review would stretch into months, not weeks.

Even people who analyze DEISes for a living

said the timeframe was far too short to properly consider all the impacts and proposed mitigations of those impacts. Those experts have since been joined by elected officials who have called for a longer analysis period.

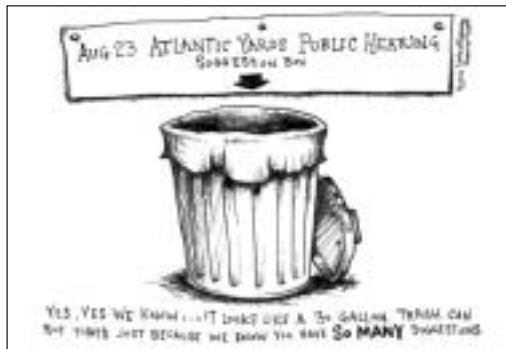
Some of those elected officials — like Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Prospect Heights) — are supporters of Bruce Ratner's vision.

When even a developer's allies argue that more time is needed to assess a project, it's pretty clear that the review process needs to be decelerated.

Taken together, the ESDC effort amounts to a crime against democracy.

Hundreds of people are expected at Wednesday's hearing at New York City Technical College between 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. Brooklynites deserve to discuss the largest development project in their history with more time than it takes for dinner and a movie.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Fleming

LETTERS

Smartmom's rage right on target

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor:

Smartmom is truly living up to her moniker! Her article on "Mommy Rage" ("Righteous moms throwing beans," Aug. 5) was brilliant in exposing the ugly hypocrisy and selfishness at the heart of motherhood as fashion statement running amok in Park Slope.

Women are throwing beans at passing cars for not conforming to their collective fantasy that these women are and should be the Center of the Universe? What does this suggest about what New York has to look forward to in 16 years when the children of these women — after having absorbed all their twisted narcissism and self-indulgent neurosis — finally hit the streets? Will the beans have graduated to guns? Water pistols? Sign me up for a Canadian visa!

Moreover, Smartmom's assessment of Amy Sohn's whine is right on the money. I always did want to ask Ms. Sohn what made her think she knew enough about sex in her 20s to write a column about her sexpits.

What's so stunningly sad is that during the month of July — by far one of the most savage between Israel and Lebanon with the senseless deaths of countless innocent children on both sides of the wall — Ms. Sohn blew away her time on her precious blog in her privileged safe haven of Brooklyn arguing that she will be doing some immigrant a fa-

vor by giving the poor, unsuspecting person a job to look after her crying baby. Princesses have always been good at concocting fantasies, but the logic in Ms. Sohn's is more an uncomfortable nightmare hitting a little too close to home.

She seems to be doing to fashionable motherhood what she once tried to do to female sexuality: degrade the experience rather than try to engage with it on open, equal terms where one is unable to control the outcome. Maybe she should re-explore her capacity and willingness to give to another human being, rather than continue to take from an outdated feminist sensibility what is proving to be recklessly irrelevant for the 21st century.

If she chooses the "fabulous" career over trying to bond with her vulnerable baby, let's hope she'll make enough money to cover all the therapy bills for the neglected child in 20 years.

Abigail H. Regier, Brooklyn Heights

Love it or leave

To the editor:

This is in response to the letter from Margaret Hughes ("Golden concerts are backing Bush," Aug. 5), who complained that state Sen. Marty Golden had placed pro-Bush signs at his concerts.

I support President Bush and our troops and I can listen to Hughes's point of view. But I don't believe

Hughes could, nor would, listen to mine. No one goes to an event and chastises its organizers for failing to put signs up that Hughes would like. You just can't complain about everything.

Hughes's "true American values" also differ hugely from mine. Her country must be another one, also. None of my liberties have been taken away, nor will they be. Any measures taken by my government have been taken to protect me, and I might add, Hughes will benefit, too.

Could Hughes be referring to the liberties of Islamic Fascist terrorists who want to kill us? The rights of those monsters, my government is taking away — and they can continue, with my blessings. Certainly not all Muslims are Islamic Fascists terrorists, but all Islamic Fascists terrorists are Muslims.

How does Hughes compare putting a dog collar on a prisoner to cutting off an American's head? Is she aware that in Guantanamo the prisoners are tossed "cocktails" of sperm, feces, urine, spit, vomit and whatever else their bodies can excrete at our soldiers that she scorns so easily and calls "tortures"? Over 440 such incidents have been reported.

The Islamic Fascists stab our soldiers with anything they can fashion into a weapon from their surroundings. They especially like to target the women guards. They're real

brave that way. They do horrible things to our soldiers that you will never read about in the liberal press.

Sen. Golden has a brain, and Hughes insults his intelligence. He knows what justice, peace and war are. Hughes, on the other hand, appears to be under the impression we can win the hearts and minds of the enemy. She is sadly mistaken. That train of liberal thought will be the downfall of this beautiful, wonderful country. Patriots support their country, they do not knock it down at every opportunity.

I am well aware everything is not perfect. But to Hughes, all is lost. I am sorry for her. No, I take that back. In my 61 years, I have never seen this nation so divided, and Hughes and those like her continue to divide it. No one, no one is wrong all the time. Not even George W. Bush.

Diane Hunt, Bay Ridge

Poem on high

The recent development in and around my neighborhood has prompted these humble lines of verse. If it reminds the reader of a Joyce Kilmer poem, so much the better.

I think that I shall never see
A new Slope flat sans balcony,
And certainly what won't be there
Is anything resembling a chair.

Leon Fretlich, Park Slope



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Fourth-to-Flatbush two-step proposed as Yards traffic fix

By Gersh Kuntzman
and Rebecca Ballhaus
The Brooklyn Papers

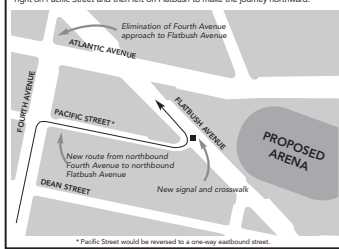
Call it the "Fourth-to-Flatbush Two-Step."

If state planners have their way, the already clogged intersection of Flatbush, Fourth and Atlantic avenues — the gateway, if you will, to Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards project — would be reconfigured to make the flow of traffic less straightforward. Under the virtually unheralded plan — buried deep within the state's Atlantic Yards draft environmental impact statement released last month — drivers heading north on Fourth Avenue toward Flatbush Avenue would instead turn right on Pacific Street and then left onto Flatbush.

Currently, such drivers can drive directly from Fourth Avenue to Flatbush Avenue. (See map, right)

State planners believe that

The Fourth-to-Flatbush Two-Step
Bruce Ratner's consultants have recommended closing Fourth Avenue north of Atlantic Avenue to alleviate traffic. Flatbush Avenue-bound traffic on Fourth Avenue would turn right on Pacific Street and then left on Flatbush to make the journey northward.



forcing drivers to turn onto Pacific Street — and into gaining-day traffic — before turning onto Flatbush will alleviate the traffic that clogs the multi-street intersection most of the day.

A spokeswoman for the Empire State Development — the quasi-public state agency overseeing the Ratner project —

said the elimination of the short block of Fourth Avenue between Atlantic and Flatbush avenues would eliminate a several-block "spillover" down Fourth Avenue and also allow for longer green-light timing at the gridlocked Fourth and Atlantic intersection.

But at least one independent analyst thought the change amounted to window-dressing. "It won't work," said traffic consultant Brian Ketchum. "Such a mitigation still leaves the intersection with an F rating. That means breaking down conditions with traffic backing up through other intersections. This community will be gridlocked even without

the intersection with residents and opponents of Atlantic Yards, who have joined a chorus of elected officials demanding more than the allotted 66 days to determine whether the highly technical, 2,000-page DEIS really solves those admitted impacts of the development. (See story below.)

The ESDC spokeswoman said the mitigations would be presented further at the public hearing.

"The elimination of the northbound Fourth Avenue to Flatbush Avenue connection will be discussed by our traffic consultant at the public hearing on Aug. 23," said ESDC spokeswoman Jessica Copen. "Hopefully that will be helpful to you."

To reporters, perhaps, but not necessarily to residents of Pacific Street, who are trying to figure out what their currently westbound street will be like after it is reconfigured as an eastbound street carrying Flatbush Avenue cars it never saw before.

"If they want to really fix the problem, they should widen the street, take down the PC Richard store and make Pacific two-ways," said Dean Ziss, who shown an ESDC diagram of the proposed traffic change.

"What they're planning is a big mess."

More groups want more time



City Councilwoman Letitia James (right) and Candace Carpenter of Develop Don't Destroy show off the 17-inch thick DEIS on Wednesday at City Hall.

The Brooklyn Papers

Dozens of elected officials, activists, Brooklyn residents, community board members and even some Atlantic Yards supporters called this week for an extension of the public comment period on Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project — but the state agency overseeing the project said the approval process is moving full steam ahead.

Almost all of 50 people who took to the steps of City Hall on Wednesday complained that there is not enough time to fully analyze the Empire State Development Corporation's 2,000-page, highly technical draft environmental impact statement in the allotted 66 days.

To demonstrate the difficulty, activists showed off the DEIS itself — two looseleaf binders measuring 17 inches thick.

"The ESDC has allowed the same amount of [public comment] time for the largest single developer proposal in the history of the city of New York as they have for most strip malls," said James Vogel of the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods, which has hired an outside consultant to pick through the document.

"We take our responsibility to review these documents very seriously and respectfully request... a reasonable extension of the review period."

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, the New York Industrial Retention Network, the Municipal Art Society, New Yorkers for Parks, and the Women's City Club also called for an extension on Wednesday. Even Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Prospect Heights), a longtime Atlantic Yards supporter, joined the chorus.

But a spokeswoman for the Empire State Development Corporation said the public comment period would close on Sept. 22 as scheduled.

"ESDC is committed to the public process and will be giving the public more opportunity to comment on this project than is usual," said the spokeswoman, Jessica Copen.

"Besides scheduling a public hearing on Aug. 23, we have a community forum on Sept. 12. We believe that the addition of this venue gives the public ample time [for] review and comment."

Sept. 12 is primary election day, making it difficult for elected officials to attend.

ATLANTIC YARDS COUNTDOWN

434

DAYS UNTIL AUG. 23 PUBLIC HEARING (As of Saturday, Aug. 19)

DAYS REMAINING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Empire State Development Corporation invited Brooklynites to comment on the agency's draft environmental impact statement for Atlantic Yards by sending letters to ESDC's Maria Mooney, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 or e-mailing atlanticyards@empirestate.ny.us. We've asked our readers to send copies of their testimony to newsroom@brooklynpapers.com. Here is this week's letter:

Dear Ms. Mooney:

I feel that Mr. Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project is not keeping with the character of the Brooklyn neighborhoods that it would transform and not in keeping with public opinion of the project of the residents who would be so affected.

The Environmental Impact Statement shows the terrible effects that this project would have on traffic, which is already quite congested. What will be done to alleviate this problem? What about the effects of this project on our already strained and under-budgeted mass transit system? Will it be able to accommodate the increased passenger flows? Several neighborhood groups including the Municipal Art Society have outlined numerous problems with this project and its consequences on the surrounding areas of Brooklyn.

The process of eminent domain is supposed to be for public-works projects, not private projects. Why is the process not being respected and the rights of residents not considered?

Furthermore, Mr. Bruce Ratner has attempted to call this area "blighted." With housing values going up every day and out of reach of the common person, how is this area blighted? I fail to understand this thesis and the logic behind this argument.

I would like to urge your agency to listen to the residents of Brooklyn and understand what we want as opposed to what outsiders want for our neighborhoods. We want a development that doesn't displace the people of the community, includes the community in the process thereby respecting it and addresses its needs fairly, responsibly and respectfully.

Gregory E. Homata, Park Slope

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 19, 2006

State of the Union

Park Slope's new bar has bocce, books, booze, music & more

By Eleazer Gorenstein
for the Brooklyn Papers

This weekend, you could be one of hundreds of New Yorkers who are fine-tuning their motor skills with a bocce ball in one hand and a beer in the other, sharpening their minds by sipping on a martini while reading Voltaire, or just plain head-banging to some good tunes.

At the newly opened Union Hall in Park Slope, there is something for every bar-goer, with few exceptions. This hip watering hole adds a new dimension to the bar scene in Brooklyn, said Michelle Ferrara, a Union Hall bartender.

"The neighborhood has been waiting for something like this for a long time," Ferrara told GO Brooklyn. "There is something here for everyone, and so far the appeal has been far and wide. We get all kinds of people coming in here. It's the most exciting thing I've ever been a part of."

Walking into Union Hall, which opened last month, is an experience on its own. As soon as you enter, there is a bar on the right side, with a dark mahogany canopy, 12 beers on tap and a menu featuring comfort food prepared in the downstairs kitchen.

There is a sprawling space around the bar, with numerous seating areas, an outdoor patio, a library nook with floor-to-ceiling bookcases, and don't forget the two indoor, 38-foot-long, dirt-surfaced bocce courts.

Owner Jim Carden said that bocce was his bar game of choice, instead of the more traditional pool tables and dartboards, because it's a sport that is fun, easy to learn, and anyone can play.

"Now, it's entirely possible for anyone to come out to the bar and plan for a night's worth of activities, something that other bars don't provide," said Carden, who also owns Floyd, NY in Brooklyn Heights. "You can have a quiet time at the library study area, or get the competitive juices flowing at the bocce courts, which have been known to get a little rowdy. It's all about having fun, though."

Carden, who opened Union Hall on July 9 with partners Andy Templer and Sean Neill, said that perhaps the biggest draw to his bar is the performance venue downstairs. Downstairs at Union Hall has standing room for over 100 people, all of whom have a great view of the 10-by-12-foot stage.

At Union Hall's first round of shows held the weekend of Aug. 4, there were packed houses downstairs every night, with the



NIGHTLIFE

Union Hall is located at 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. The performance venue, Downstairs at Union Hall, will present Levy on Aug. 19 at 8 pm, comedian Eugene Merman and Friends featuring Michael Showalter on Aug. 20 at 8 pm, Inlets and Casey Daniel on Aug. 22 at 7 pm, Dave Derby on Aug. 24 at 7 pm, Rosewood Thieves and Sonny Oaks on Aug. 25 at 8 pm. Cover charges range from \$7 to \$12. Science Night is Sept. 6. For more information, call (718) 638-4400 or visit Union Hall's Web site at www.unionhallnyc.com.

biggest draw being the Los Angeles-area indie rock band Silverman Pickups who played a sold-out show on Aug. 7, said Carden.

There is at least one indie rock performance every weekend, with a cover charge ranging from \$7 to \$12. On Aug. 19, Levy will perform, and the Inlets and Sufjan Stevens' guitarist Casey Daniel will play a set on Tuesday, Aug. 22. On Aug. 24, Dave Derby will rock out, followed by Rose-



wood Thieves playing with Sonny Oaks on Aug. 25.

In addition to the music, there are other special performances at the Union Hall,



Entertaining everyone: (Clockwise from top left) Crowds around Union Hall's bocce court can get a little "rowdy," says co-owner Jim Carden; others enjoy this Park Slope bar's quiet library nook; and among the performers slated to perform here is Boerum Hill comedian Michael Showalter.

ranking from the expected (comedy) to wildly unusual: Science Night.

Every other Sunday there is a comedy night with Eugene Merman and Friends. Aug. 20 will feature Boerum Hill comedian Michael Showalter, who has appeared on Comedy Central, written, directed and starred in 2005's "The Baxter," and co-wrote the 2000 movie "Wee Hot American Summer." (Comedy nights have a \$7 cover charge.)

The first Wednesday of every month, beginning Sept. 6, will be Union Hall's Science Night, which will feature local scientists demonstrating their experiments and other quirky inventions and explaining what they mean to the public, said Ferrara.

With all of the younger people moving into the Park Slope neighborhood, the eclectic and exciting aspects of Union Hall are sure to attract many from the area and Ferrara said it has already proven to be popular among locals and those outside of the neighborhood.

"I was working here one Wednesday night, shortly after we opened, and I was really shocked at the amount of people who were there until really late on a night in the middle of the week," said Ferrara. "I was like, 'What do these people do?' I think it has a lot to do with the fact that we have covered all our bases, and people are just having a good time taking it all in all night long."

MUSIC

Tragic tale

The Metropolitan Opera is bringing world-class opera to Marine Park, for free, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of "Met in the Parks."

This bit of Lincoln Center can be enjoyed locally on Aug. 25 when Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata" ("The Fallen Woman") comes to life on the green.

The performance will be a concert version of the legendary story of the consumptive courtesan, Violetta (Maureen O'Flynn, left), and Alfredo (Garrett Sorenson) and the many obstacles they have to overcome for love.

Through song, you will understand Violetta's love of freedom as she sings "Sempre libera," feel Alfredo's frustration when he thinks Violetta is leaving him in "Questa donna conosco?"; and listen to Alfredo's father's plea for him to leave Violetta and return home with "Di Provenza."

The Marine Park performance will feature a full orchestra, but no costumes or set for a more casual operatic experience. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets and pack a picnic for a unique night out at the opera.

The Metropolitan Opera presents "La Traviata" in Marine Park (East 33rd Street and Avenue U) on Aug. 25 at 8 pm. The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Web site www.metopera.org or call (212) 360-6000.

— Jovanna Rizzo

THEATER

Mama mia

Want to see Academy Award-winning actors perform in a classic drama on a Central Park stage? For free?

Ticket vouchers for "Mother Courage and Her Children," starring Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline, will be available at 651 Arts in Fort Greene on Aug. 25.

"Mother Courage," translated by Tony Kushner, concludes this summer's Shakespeare in the Park program, staged by The Public Theater, and is part of the organization's 50th anniversary celebration.

The play, directed by George C. Wolfe, follows Mother Courage (Streep, pictured) over 12 years as she loses her family and faith while struggling for survival in times of war.

"This summer's shows in the park are a perfect manifestation of what The Public Theater stands for," said the Public's Artistic Director Oskar Eustis in a statement. "Our nation's greatest actors performing the world's greatest plays under the direction of thrilling and boundary-breaking directors free for the public."

Pick up a ticket voucher for "Mother Courage and Her Children" at 651 Arts (651 Fulton St. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene) from 1 pm to 5 pm on Aug. 25 for that day's performance at 8 pm at Central Park's Delacorte Theater (enter the park at 81st Street and Central Park West). Vouchers are limited to two per person and are exchanged for tickets at the Delacorte Theater Box Office, from 4 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information, call (212) 539-8750 or visit www.publictheater.org.

— JR

CINEMA

Race to Coney

On Aug. 24 the "Movies With a View" outdoor film series in Jumbo concludes with a screening of Walter Hill's cult classic, "The Warriors." The 1979 flick, shot on location throughout New York City, features a Coney Island gang, falsely accused of a killing, that must flee from the Bronx to its home turf while being pursued by vengeance-seeking thugs.

The film stars Michael Beck as a Warrior and Deborah Van Valkenburgh, as Mercy of the Orphans gang (pictured).

The film is as controversial today as it was on its opening weekend. This summer, Roger Hill, who plays the slain gang warlord Cyrus, filed suit against the makers of the wildly successful videogame inspired by the film, demanding cash and a court order barring use of his likeness.

At the time of its release, "The Warriors" was accused of inciting violence, and a manager of an Ohio theater complained to Boxoffice magazine that their film was attracting "unusual" patrons, including "motorcycle gangs."

"The Warriors" screening begins at sundown at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park (Water and New Dock streets in DUMBO). Admission is free. For more information, including rain dates, call the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy at (718) 802-0603.

— Lisa J. Curtis



Baby fresh: On Aug. 11, Brooklyn Botanic Garden Director of Membership Liz Culp boldly attempts to get a noseful of the corpse flower's rancid perfume while garden curator Mark Fisher looks on.

Hot on the scent

Crowds fill garden in pursuit of a stench

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn editor

Let's talk about sex, Baby.

Or, more precisely, sex with Baby, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's now-famous stinking corpse flower. I was a witness to the racy proceedings on Aug. 11, along with at least a dozen others, when Dr. Alessandro Chiari, plant propagator at the garden, and Baby, the garden's beloved *Amorphophallus titanum*, shared an intimate moment designed to bear fruit.

Chiari lovingly caressed Baby's female flowers — nestled inside the base of her large outer petal, or spathe — with a camel hair paintbrush in order to deposit rusted pollen from another plant.

Although her name's Baby, she's really 10 years old,

and as of Friday morning, she had rotten, stinking halitosis. (While the corpse flower emits the putrid perfume to entice pollinators — like carrion beetles and sweat bees in the rainforests of Sumatra — at BBG it only served to attract some flies and 33,000 human visitors.)

While on Friday this regal flower — with the world's most rancid scent — sported a giant, fleshy "phallus," or spadix, sprouting proudly from the center of its spathe, a look at the garden's Web cam just five days later revealed that the stinking protrusion was quite flaccid, jolling over like a flat tongue. Her outer petal — once a ruffle of green and veined foliage on the outside, like celery, that had curled back to reveal a hue akin to dried blood on the inside — was closed up tight like an umbrella by Aug. 16.

See CORPSE on page 10

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My Featured Organic Wine for August Domaine St. Nicholas, "Gammes en May"

By Darrin Siegfried

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vines are 20 – 40 year old Gamay, growing in clay and schist soils in the extreme southern end of the Loire Delta, south of Muscadet in the Fiefs Vendéens. Cool fermented without oak, this wine has delicious flavors of wild raspberries, rosewater and red cherries! Good fruit, tart acidity, fine structure, excellent balance... and a terrific price! This easy drinking red tastes even better with a slight chill. You'll find this wine on the winos of restaurants Guy Savoy, Taillevent and Arpège in Paris!

Domaine St. Nicholas, "Gammes en May" — \$11.49

My Featured Winery for August Movia, and Movia Vila Marija

Eric Asimov, in the New York Times, calls Movia, "one of my favorite wine estates." All the Movia wines I've tasted are marked by liveliness, depth and purity of flavor. In existence since 1700, Ales Kristancic wholeheartedly implements the rigorous Biodynamic principles handed down to him from his father. Estate holdings all lie on the prime strip of land that adjoins the Italian & Slovenian sides of the Collio. No chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides are used in the vineyard. Only wild yeast, and no added sulphites... at all. These are truly wonderful wines, all hand made, all showing a decided sense of terroir. I absolutely love these wines and cannot recommend them more highly!

Vila Marija, Pinot Grigio Light, fresh and crisp with herbal, honeydew, pear and green apple notes, all atop layers of minerality. Remarkable balance, great value. — \$12.95

Vila Marija, Merlot If Miles, in the New York Times, had tried this wine, he might have forgotten about Pinot Noir! This exceptional wine is just what Merlot SHOULD taste like. Richly colored and full bodied. — \$12.95

Movia, Sauvignon Blanc A group of 25 Sommeliers declared this wine to be the perfect wine to serve with asparagus. Rich, ripe and loaded with heady aromas, this is beyond being very good: it's great wine! Unfined, unfiltrated, made with wild, natural yeasts, it's all about the grapes and the vineyard. — \$26.95

Movia, Cabernet Sauvignon Oak aged (though you can barely tell) on the lees for 4 years, this is a wine of depth, complexity and balance. Slightly leffy on the nose, along with cassia, cherry and blueberry aromas. On the palate, layer after layer of cocoa, berry, mint and baked berries. — \$31.49



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Back for more

Amelia's in Bay Ridge boasts a new patio and updated menu that is Italian at its best

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Revisiting a restaurant I've loved is a tricky business. If I make a big deal about a place, recalling each dish over the months, then I set myself up for disappointment the second time around. So I resisted going back to Amelia Ristorante in Bay Ridge for almost a year.

"Would it be as mind-blowing as the first time?" I wondered. In some ways, the sequel was even better. At his one-year-anniversary as owner and chef, Ken Deiner is at the top of his form. His large, simply plated dishes still pack a wallop visually, and they're just as boldly flavored and carefully balanced as I remembered.

Deiner recently expanded his eight-table dining room to include a large, secluded outdoor space with seating for 65 and a raw bar that seats six. The shaded patio is conducive to lingering as the evening cools down. From Thursday to Sunday, Deiner serves impeccably fresh seafood on the deck. (He offers the same menu on Tuesday and Wednesday via the kitchen.)

The cold, seawater brininess of Blue Point oysters and Little Neck clams are an ideal palate primer to Deiner's opulent dishes. They also do a good job of taking the sting out of a miserably hot summer day.

Deiner works hard to ensure patrons will have a memorable meal, and "memorable" is his word. There are plenty of good-enough Italian restaurants in Bay Ridge; he aims to create an experience that's closer to event dining.

Until recently, when he hired a sous chef, Deiner was a one-man-show. With his large menu and attention to detail, going solo wasn't easy. He makes his own mozzarella, and it's creamy and subtly nutty tasting with a delicate, milky aroma. His pasta



More to love: Amelia Ristorante in Bay Ridge is one girl who's proud of her expanded girly. Chef-owner Ken Deiner has added seating for 65 on Amelia's new patio.

is housemade, and you can taste it in the silkiness of the noodles and the way the sauce clings to the strands. And he's as good in the pastry station as he is on the savory side.

For instance, Deiner's flourless chocolate cake — too often served like dense, dull fudge in other eateries — is more like a rich soufflé, intensely cocoa flavored, with a rewarding layer of crusty top. He splashes the pastry with B & B whiskey that cuts the sweetness while adding a pleasantly bitter edge.

He's wise, too. Deiner knows he can kill himself kneading dough and never turn out anything as good as the loaves from Royal Crown Pastry Shop in Bensonhurst, so he leaves the bread baking to them. Slices of the seven-grain and country Italian breads arrive slightly warm and ready to be slathered with a mild, roasted garlic and sun-dried tomato butter.

The "mozzarella di Amelia" and the "mozzarella fresca," appetizers that employ the housemade cheese, are delectable. The first starts with a thick slice of the cheese, lightly dusted with breadcrumbs and gently sautéed. The crisp, buttery square serves as a pillow for a bit of fresh plum tomatoes, a few torn basil leaves and slivers of prosciutto.

DINING

Amelia Ristorante (8305 Third Avenue, between 83rd and 84th streets in Bay Ridge) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Pastas \$14.95-\$17.95; entrees \$19.95-\$29.95. Dinner & drinks Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. For reservations, call (718) 683-4650.

More than a tavern

Brooklyn Heights may be the prettiest neighborhood in the borough, but you can count the good eateries among its blocks on one hand. With Jack the Horse Tavern, owners Tim Oltmans and his business manager-wife Micki Schubert hope to improve the nabe's culinary reputation.

Open since June, the bar and eatery, says Oltmans, is "more than a standard pub." It's not a surprising statement coming from a chef who hails from the kitchens of Gramercy Tavern, CT Restaurant and Tabla, three of New York's most elite restaurants.

You won't find Oltmans's chicken liver "schmeer" on a toasted baguette served with rhubarb compote on just any pub's menu, or an entree of slow-roasted pork breast with figs and braised Swiss chard (pictured) either.

As befitting a tavern, there are six pints on draft — two from Williamsburg's Brooklyn Brewery — and 11 bottled varieties. None of the bottles on the international wine list tops \$50, with several good selections by the glass.

Oltmans named the restaurant after Jack the Horse Lake in Northern Minnesota, a serene spot where he fished with his father and brothers. Keeping the "all in the family" theme going, the tavern's upscale decor was designed by Schubert, who hung the work of Mitchell Hooks, an artist known for illustrating paperback book covers, and movie posters of the 1960s and '70s, on the brick walls. Hooks happens to be Schubert's father.

Jack the Horse Tavern (66 Hicks St. at Cranberry Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$14-\$21. The restaurant serves dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. For reservations, call (718) 852-5084. — Tina Barry



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CORPSE...

Continued from page 7

But over the previous weekend, Baby had put on a show for the crowds that encircled the giant flower in her enormous terra cotta pot, straining their necks over the ropes for a whiff of her peculiar aroma.

After being nurtured for 10 years by the garden, the plant finally sprouted a flower on July 31, which ultimately grew to a height of 66.5-inches and 40-inches wide, and did finally produce the statted, horrendous stink early in the morning of Aug. 11.

Chian said the smell seemed to be emanating in waves from a fluid that the flower was "oozing" from its spudix (which is an enormous version of the one at the center of the corpse flower's plant cousin—a star in many bridal bouquets—the calla lily).

During the week morning hours of Friday, the plant's caretakers reported that Baby's stench was comparable to everything from dead rats to a fishing boat at low tide.

But the odor had faded so much by Friday afternoon that Chian, who needed to wear a respirator to keep from vomiting into the flower earlier in the day ("I didn't want to be hit with a wave while my head was in the," he confided, "I was a little bit nauseous. Better safe than sorry"), was able to pollinate the plant without so much as a nose plug.

Baby is Chian's first experience with a corpse flower, but he was so excited he couldn't sleep Thursday night, he told GO Brooklyn. "I came back around 5 in the morning, because I wanted to make sure everything was OK."

Baby's blooming was such a special occasion that BBG's Herbarium Supervisor Paul Harwood "rushed in" from his vacation for a day to come and sketch the plant, so her plumage could be documented for posterity.

"It's very unusual, amazing, wonderful," said Harwood of his first opportunity to glimpse a corpse flower in the flesh.

The hope now for Baby's caretakers is that the pollination was successful, and in two to three weeks she will swell with the fruit that will contain the seeds that the garden can use to grow more of these rare, endangered, smelly corpse flowers.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is located at 900 Washington Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights (718) 625-5533, \$33 seniors and students with ID, free for children younger than 14). For more information about Baby, visit the Web site, www.bbg.org.

BROOKLYN
Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara F. Cowan

Amarachi Lounge

325 Franklin Ave. at Clinton Place in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (646) 447-4303, www.amarachilounge.com

Saturday: Global Sounds, 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.; Sunday: Open Mic Artist Showcase, 5 p.m. to 5 a.m.; Wednesday: Laugh Out Loud Wednesdays, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.; Thursday: Funkyforward, live fashion show featuring Brooklyn designers and models, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.; Friday: Baka Japan and its Aesthetic Rhythms, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Anyway Cafe

1400 Greenwood Road at East 146th Street in Sheepshead Bay (718) 934-9988, www.anywaycafe.com

Tuesday: Jazz funk with Karin Okada and guests, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Asser Levy Park

17th Street and Surf Avenue in Coney Island (718) 469-1912, www.brooklynconcerts.com

Aug. 24: Salsa by the Sea with Victor Manzanillo and Yvonne, 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Backroom

1 Main St. at Plymouth Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-6666, www.thebackroom.com

Aug. 22: Andy Statman with Greg Kowalsky, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Aug. 23: The Debutantes, 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Aug. 24: The Debutantes, 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Aug. 25: The Debutantes, 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Cafe Steinhof

422 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 398-7776, www.cafesteinhof.com

Aug. 22: Raver Alexander and his Mad Jazz Hatters, 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Aug. 23: Raver Alexander and his Mad Jazz Hatters, 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Center for Improvisational Music

209 Douglas St. at Third Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 631-5882, www.cimnyc.org

Aug. 21: Drew Gross and 7 Black Butterflies, 8 p.m. to 12 p.m.

Club Exit

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-4777, www.clubexit.com

Sunday: Stephanie Weintraub, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Tuesday: Slavic Soul Party, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Wednesday: Night of the Banned, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Club X

1819 Ulica Ave. at Avenue J in Flatlands, (718) 296-0225, www.clubx.com

Sunday: DJ Dance Party, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Tuesday: Karaoke Night, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Wednesday: Karaoke Night, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Cornerstone Pub

1522 Prospect Ave. at Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 940-0037, www.cornerstonepub.com

Tuesday: Dan Pratt Quartet, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Wednesday: The Ocarina, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Thursday: The Ocarina, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Crossroads Cafe

815 Sixth St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 387-3389, www.crossroadscafe.com

Saturday: Rhum, live DJ alongside live percussion fusion, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday: Rhum, live DJ alongside live percussion fusion, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Crossroads Saloon

2079 Coney Island Ave. at Kings Highway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 359-5593, www.crossroadssaloon.com

Sunday: Rhum, live DJ alongside live percussion fusion, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Monday: Rhum, live DJ alongside live percussion fusion, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Black Betty

113 M Street at 4th Avenue in Sunset Park, (718) 599-0243, www.blackbetty.com

Saturday: DJ Yan Supreme and Concoment, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday: Brazilian Beat with DJ Sean Marquand, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Brooklyn Lyeum

227 Fourth Ave. at Prospect Street in Park Slope, (718) 398-7301, www.brooklynlyeum.com

Aug. 19: Throw People (dance performance), 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Aug. 20: Throw People (dance performance), 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Bubby's Brooklyn Pie Company

1 Main St. at Plymouth Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-6666, www.bubbys.com

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SUNDAY - Aug 20[illegible]**MONDAY - Aug 21**[illegible]**TUESDAY - Aug 22**[illegible]

WEDNESDAY - AUG 23

[illegible]

THURSDAY - AUG 24

[illegible]

FRIDAY - Aug 25

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SATURDAY - AUG 26

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Brooklyn: Great place to explore

BEYOND THE MONSTROUS LEFT FIELD WALL at KeySpan Park lies Nathan's Famous. And beyond Nathan's? Don't ask a Cyclone!

Cyclones players have been residing in Brooklyn for about two months now, but you could practically sell them a bridge, judging by how much they've learned about their adopted home.

"I really don't get a whole lot of time to go around and do things, playing late and getting back late," said first baseman Tim Grogan.

And most Cyclones would concur, including manager George Greer. "My wife has done a little bit more of the walking around and visiting," said the skipper.

The Brooks spent the first half of the season in dorm rooms at Polytechnic University, near the Manhattan Bridge (at the opposite end of the borough from KeySpan Park).

Because the players arrive at the stadium in the early-to-mid afternoon, they're left with very little time to roam around what Borough President Markowitz humbly calls "the greatest city in the world."

Even when our Brooklyn baseball heroes have had the time, they've preferred to visit Manhattan, OK, so maybe "the city" has Times Square, Central Park, Greenwich Village, the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building and the ESPN Zone, but it is too much to ask that the Cyclones show some support for the borough whose name is slapped across their chests.

And when the players do hang out in Brooklyn, they're about as adventurous as a finicky 4-year-old, rarely getting beyond the sweet and greasy taste of a grilled Nathan's hot dog.

"We only have four off days the whole season, so we basically just stick to what we know, and Nathan's is real close," said back-up catcher Teddy Dabiau. Yeah, it's pretty close all right, just two blocks from the ballpark and even visible from the field. Reliever Grady Hinchman has been to Nathan's twice, just to be able to say that he went there.

(That explains the first trip. The second visit, he said, stemmed from how much his stomach enjoyed the first visit.)

BUT MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR THE BOYS OF Brooklyn to get out and experience more of the borough than just Polytech, KeySpan and Nathan's. For that, your humble columnist — a Brooklyn native — is offering a list of the top 10 places every Cyclone must go:

10. 55 Washington St. in DUMBO, which just happens to be the location of our offices.

Seriously, it'll make our jobs a lot easier.

9. Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Fans come to KeySpan Park to watch Brooklyn's budding stars. In return, the stars should go to the garden to see some of Brooklyn's budding flowers.

8. Brooklyn Brewery
Even though the Cyclones are surging, every baseball player knows that there will always be tough losses that need relief. The Williamsburg brewery is the perfect place to mourn a loss (or, then again, celebrate a championship).

We apologize to Jose De La Torre, Jeremy Hambrick, Todd Privett, Jake Ruckle and Jonathan Sanchez, who are old enough to be pro ballplayers, but not old enough to have a beer.

7. New York City Transit Museum
From the outside, this underground lair on Boerum Place may look like just another way to catch the train to the ballpark, but don't be fooled. It's the perfect place to learn about the elaborate transportation system that gets most of your fans to the stadium.

6. Junior's Restaurant
Everyone raves about the cheesecake, but the smart money is spent on those brick-oven sandwiches served on the twin onion rolls. If teammates rely on you for your speed and agility, maybe you should look elsewhere.

5. Borough Hall
It may not be the White House or even the state Capitol, but before Brooklyn made the Great Mistake of 1898 (the infamous merger with New York), this was the City Hall for the country's third-largest city.

4. Atlantic Center Mall
If you need to get a New York State ID, new cleats, a box of Wheaties, or a plasma flat-screen TV, take any train to the Atlantic Center and get it all done in one day. Really, any train. Enter only on the Atlantic Avenue side, as developer Bruce Ratner didn't bother to put doors, or even windows, on the side where the less-fortunate people live.

3. The Brooklyn Heights Promenade
Want to find out who has the strongest arm on the ball club? Let's see who can throw a baseball from the promenade, over the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway into the East River. Make some money on the side. It can't be done.

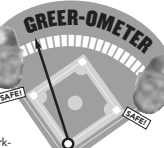
2. Astroland's Cyclone
The Cyclones' season has been quite a roller-coaster ride, opening with an 0-7 start, yet now in first place ahead of the hated Staten Island Yankees. So before things go south again, it might be a good idea to check out the other roller-coaster just down the Boardwalk.

1. Prospect Park
There's simply not a nicer place in all of Brooklyn. From playgrounds to barbecues, to free concerts to roads covered in horse poop, Prospect Park is every Brooklynite's backyard.

Of course, you can travel from one end of the borough to the other, but after a hard win over the Batavia Muckdogs, nothing beats a Nathan's frank.

The Greer report

With the Cyclones ending the first half of the season with the best record in the New York-Penn League, manager George Greer can breathe a bit easier. Sure, Brooklyn's elephantine fans recall the team's 0-7 start, including a humbling, 18-0 loss to the Staten Island Yankees, but a quick check of The Brooklyn Papers' legendary "Greer-ometer" shows that the skipper's tenure is as safe as its ever been. Still, this needle can dance if the Cyclones don't win it all this year.



BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

A Cyclone worthy of A-rod

As team surges, one batter suffers a power failure

for The Brooklyn Papers

One of the only holes in the Cyclones lineup during the team's recent surge to first place has been Jonathan Sanchez.

The right fielder's batting average has dipped below .200 even as his teammates are experiencing a power surge.

Yankee fans may think A-Rod is un-clutch, but they should count their blessings that Sanchez isn't wearing pinstripes.

Despite his .198 average, Sanchez appears in the lineup almost every day, and has usually found a way to strike out or overthrow the cutoff man with his cannon arm each game.

Sanchez's failures are something of a surprise to the Mets organization, considering he batted .249 with 9 HRs and 25 RBIs for Class A Hagerstown earlier this year.

"He's just a young player right now still struggling to figure out how to translate his early work and adjustments into a game," said Cyclones hitting coach Scott Hunter. "He's a very confident kid, but it's easy



to start struggling in games and [have it] get into your head a little bit. Right now we're approaching the more mental aspect of the game than physical."

Even the 21-year-old non-drafted free agent doesn't know what's going on.

"I feel like I don't want to hit," he said when asked about his confidence in his situation.

At least that matches the way Cyclones fans feel. They don't want him up there either.

Nick Pauly

Old-timers' day

Attention all 80-year-olds: Your reward for longevity is finally here.

In tribute to the Cyclones' record-setting 26-inning game last month, the team is giving everyone born in 1926 a free ticket to the home game on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Relax, granddad, it's a



Red, white & green

The Cyclones donned the "azzurri" of Italy's triumphant World Cup team at this year's Italian Night on Saturday, Aug. 12. Here, Jake Ruckle models the alternative uniform, complete with Italian flag and red, white and green Cyclones logo on the cap.

bleacher seat.

Still, the old-timer-filled bleachers are just one part of the bizarre "tribute to all things '26," as the Cyclones press office put it.

• For the first 26 minutes after gates open, hot dogs will cost just 26 cents.

• There will be 26 giveaways, including one for a 26-inch TV and another for 26 gallons of gasoline.

Now if the Cyclones could score 26 runs, that would be something.

Gersh Kuntzman

Clones stars

Six Cyclones — plus the team's entire coaching staff — were named New York-Penn League All-Stars last week.

Catcher Jason Jacobs, left-fielder Dustin Martin, shortstop Luis Rivera and pitchers Eric Brown, Jeremy Mizell and Jake Ruckle were all honored with a trip to Aberdeen, Maryland, for the Aug. 16 game (too late for this week's issue).

Cyclones manager George Greer was named skipper of the National League squad by dint of the Cyclones' league-leading record.

"It's wonderful," said Greer.

"To represent the Mets and Brooklyn at the All-Star Game is an honor I'll cherish forever."

Greer's players said the game was a welcome break from the grind of the season and a time to reflect on their successful first halves.

"It's an accomplishment and one of the goals I wanted to do," said Ruckle, who has a 4-1 record with a 2.64 ERA.

Brown, who also has four wins, plus a stingy 1.51 ERA, added: "It's a pretty big honor. It's good for me and my confidence."

For Rivera, being named an all-star is sweet vindication. After all, he was dropped from the Cubs farm system last year.

"I wasn't playing everyday," said Rivera, who sports a healthy .295 batting average in 49 games with the Clones. "I had 24 at-bats and they released me, with no reason. The Mets gave me an opportunity."

Jacobs also said it was a "great honor" to be named to the team, but said he had other reasons for enjoying the trip to Maryland.

"My girlfriend is going make the trip with us," he said.

Lucky Ngamwajast

Brooks sit in first at All-Star break

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclones 4

Spinners 1

Aug. 10, at Lowell

Freshly minted all-star pitcher Eric Brown allowed just one run on five hits in 7-2/3 innings, and struck out six. Reliever German Marte was perfect for the remainder of the game, earning his second save.

Jonathan "Country Boy" Schemmel (4-5, 1 RBI) led the Brooklyn offense. Jeremy Hambrick had two hits of his own, and also drove in a run. Jason Jacobs, also named to the All-Star team earlier in the day, also drove in a run.

Cyclones 5

Spinners 0

Aug. 11, at Lowell

Toh Stener's two-hit, seven-inning gem set the pace as Brooklyn pitchers posted their league-leading ninth shutout of the year.

Stener (5-1) struck out six and walked no one, lowering his ERA to 2.44. Jeremy Mizell (0.38 ERA on the season) and David Koons (one inning apiece) preserved the shutout.

The Brooklyn barrage started in the first inning, thanks to RBIs from Ivan Naccarata and Jonathan Sanchez. Another run scored in the third, thanks to an



Cyclones starter Jake Ruckle fires a strike during the team's Saturday night victory over the Batavia Muckdogs.

other Sanchez RBI. Jason Jacobs knocked in a run in the same frame.

The Cyclones scored their final run in the sixth inning on an RBI by team-leading hitter Dustin Martin, who was 3-4 on

from some early run support in the form of back-to-back RBI doubles from Ivan Naccarata and Jason Jacobs that put Brooklyn ahead 2-0.

After giving up three runs in the second, the Brooks regained the lead in the bottom of the fourth on a Jake Eliti RBI groundout and a Tim Grogan sacrifice.

Batavia took the lead back, but the Cyclones returned the favor with two runs in the bottom of the sixth. Grogan got an RBI on a another groundout, and Luis Rivera got the game-winning on a two-out RBI single. Reliever Jonathan Castillo got the win, his third. German Marte got his third save of the year with a scoreless ninth.

Muckdogs 6

Cyclones 1

Aug. 13, at KeySpan Park

Even a great team like the Cyclones can be halted by a hot pitcher. The Brooklyn bats were quiet pretty much all night, until Jason Jacobs broke up the shutout with an eighth-inning RBI on a groundout.

Todd Privett (1-1) took the loss.

Muckdogs 7

Cyclones 3

Aug. 14, at KeySpan Park

Brooklyn scored all its runs in the third, thanks to a Jonathan Schemmel double,

followed by sac flies from Dustin Martin and Jonathan Sanchez.

But starter Nelson Portillo (3-3, 3.30 ERA) couldn't hold it, giving up four in the sixth inning to give Batavia the rubber game of the series.

The loss sent the Brooks into the All-Star break with a league-leading 32-22 record.

American 4

National 1

All-Star game Aug. 16, at Aberdeen

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For the Brooklyn Museum, change is good

Continued from page 1

into a "collections division" of 15 curators (and their staffs), helmed by Stanton, and an "exhibitions division" of three curators (and their staffs), plus education and design personnel, helmed by Desmarais.

Cunning the century-old system of museum departments (such as Egyptian, Asian, American, and others) in exchange for lumping all curators into one of two divisions may sound like a huge change, but it's actually not, Lehman said.

"The collections curators are going to be doing 99.9 percent of what they've been doing right along," he said. "We're not creating mega-departments ... This will bring people together so that they have a chance to have discussion and dialogue with one another."

Three-prong approach

Lehman said the reorganization is intended to offer much-needed support to the overburdened curators, whose numbers have dwindled from 24 nine years ago to just 18 because of a hiring freeze.

The director said the new divisions would complement his three-prong approach to staging shows — which he eagerly scrawled out on a reporter's notebook (see illustration at right).

"The ideal is to do exhibitions that relate to our collections, serve our [Brooklyn] community and have an international appeal," said Lehman. "And if we can't get that all the time, we'd like to be able to get at least two of these things."

Contemporary art curator Charlotta Kotik has been assigned to the collections division. Kotik, who has worked at the museum since 1983, told me she's optimistic about the players in her "group," which includes feminist art and photography.

"In the case of contemporary art, it's logical to bring together curators with collections that include photography, works on pa-

Brooklyn Museum Exhibition Ideal

As explained by Museum Director Arnold Lehman

RELATES TO THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

RELATES TO BROOKLYN COMMUNITY

RELATES TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Ideal exhibition has all three ingredients

Reproduction of sketch drawn by Lehman for The Brooklyn Papers.

per, painting and sculpture because contemporary art is about concepts and ideas, which are global," she said.

Lehman believes that the previous department system created exhibitions in which everything was seen in a "vacuum" rather than instilling an understanding that

"we're on one globe together."

"Just look at one example: the whole idea of the Silk Road, which goes from China to Italy," Lehman said. "And if you talk about how works of art move back and forth ... you're talking about these incredible changes in cultural identity and

cultural perception. There is this incredible fear of ideas that isn't just happening today because of e-mail. It happened 1,000 years ago because of camels. That's a long description of what we think could happen if curators start talking to one another about their fields."

Kotik was slightly less confident about the restructuring, saying that although she was "not an expert" in their fields, curators in the curatorial division subgroup that includes Islamic, Egyptian, Asian and African art might find they have less in common because "African art and Asian art feels very far away from each other, but maybe they have tangential planes in common."

Ultimately, she sees the success of the restructuring as being vulnerable to the vagaries of human nature.

"Only time will say if [the reorganization] was well thought out [but] if we approach it positively and with an open mind, that's good. If we're negative, of course it's not going to work."

Infusions of cash

Kotik curated the current temporary exhibit "Graffiti," which is an assemblage of works on canvas — and a subway door — culled from the Brooklyn Museum's own collection.

While graffiti isn't a novelty to Brooklynites, the current aside of the show, which encourages museum visitors to participate by leaving their own tag on a "community mural," is indicative of the "outside-the-box" approach that the museum's exhibitions division was created to foster.

Beyond sparking creativity, the reorganization could help the museum's bottom line. The new exhibitions division will expedite shows so that there is a constant flow of new attractions and visitors, rather than the intermittent spikes in attendance that the museum has typically experienced whenever a big new show is

put on display, Lehman said.

Such a process could even help the museum make some money off its vast collection while garnering global attention.

"It's very important for us to be able to circulate [Brooklyn Museum] exhibitions all over the United States, and all over the world, because that generates revenues for the museum that we can put back into our operations," Lehman said.

A better system

Although this reorganization was "new" to many museum-ophiles, Lehman said changes were a decade in the making and the new divisions were only created after numerous meetings, open forums, and even a staff retreat.

"This has not been an overnight decision," he explained. "We have been having conversations with all of the curators, and indeed all of the senior people of the museum, for probably seven to eight months now."

While colleagues not affiliated with the museum have publicly voiced concerns about exchanging the tried-and-true department system — which dates back a century — with a collections division and exhibitions division, Lehman insists that these changes were made to help the museum "do better" with its scarce resources.

"We have an enormous number of incredibly smart people here," said Lehman. "But we also had a structure that works lots of places and maybe it doesn't work other places. Someone could say 'But that's the structure everyone has, so why do you have to change it?' Because it wasn't working for us as well as it could."

Critics have derided the Brooklyn Museum for showing memorabilia-driven exhibitions such as the Smithsonian's "Stars Wars" exhibit of models, costumes and drawings in 2002, or the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum's "Hip-Hop

Nation" (2000) in its earnest attempts to stage more accessible shows. But Lehman counters that one of the goals in green-lighting the reorganization is to create more exhibitions culled from the museum's own rich collection — second in size only to the Metropolitan Museum of Art — that can be just as engaging and even more academically meaty.

Encouraging curators with expertise in disparate fields to interact and to fully use the museum's one-million-item collection, will allow the institution to offer a more-complete version of art history, Lehman said, pointing to the long-term installation, "American Identities," as a cutting-edge example when it opened after 9-11.

"American Identities" is the first time that I knew of in an American museum [that mixed] painting, sculpture and decorative arts as well as Native American art, Spanish Colonial, South American and the influences of the Dutch, and on and on — to show that this is not one storyline, this is multiple storylines that work together to create real history," said Lehman, crediting the museum's collaborating curators. "If you go to any other museum, I defy you to have that complicated picture ... portrayed in the galleries."

"Too often in museums, it's one person's perception of history — the way the gallery looks, the way all the labels are written and that's what you take away as a visitor."

With the reorganization under way, museum officials and the public will have to wait and see if the curators drive in their department-less spheres, brainstorm with their colleagues and create more academically and artistically rich exhibits that will appeal to more visitors than ever before.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of the Brooklyn Museum's treasures taken out of storage, put on display and appreciated by all of Brooklyn and the world.

MUSEUM SHUFFLE...

Continued from page 1

museum purists questioned the artistic value of a show that could just as easily have been hosted by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

That's no surprise, given that the hip-hop exhibit was co-curated by rap writer Kevin Powell, not one of the museum's venerable art experts.

Critics say such shows make it clear that the museum is sacrificing its long history of scholarship in favor of a longer admissions line.

George Goldner, the Metro-



A museum-goer leaves her "tag" at the graffiti show.

politan Museum of Art's chairman of drawings and prints, famously told the New York Times that the curator shakeup would result in more shows being about "razzmatia" instead of art.

"The kind of work [curators] do calls for specialization, and when people intermingle these things it shows a lack of respect for the curatorial role," he told the paper.

"Do you want to go to a hospital that merges the cardiology department with ears, nose and throat? I wouldn't." The museum called such



The Brooklyn Museum's permanent "American Identities" exhibit mixes genres, styles, periods and types of American art.



Charlotta Kotik, a curator at the Brooklyn Museum, in front of piece called "The Green Things Sparkle."

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Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1187979 has been applied for by the undersigned and has been filed with the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, New York, at the Office of the Clerk, located at 444 Park Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11228 for on-premise consumption.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 26th day of July, 2006, bearing the Index Number N050612009, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Barry Yu Yu Zhou. My present name is: Zhi Yu Zhou. My address is: 48 Mona Street, Brooklyn, New York 11216. My place of birth is: Luohu, China. My date of birth is: April 29, 1988.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 23rd day of July, 2006, bearing the Index Number N050612009, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Shaomona Daphne Williams. My present name is: Vanessa Daphne Williams. My present address is: 140 Moore Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: May 2, 2006.

Notice of Formation of Light Organic, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State on 8/15/06. NY office location: KINGS COUNTY, 444 Park Plaza, Brooklyn, New York 11228. Upon whom process against the LLC may be served: Tony of State will mail a copy of any process against the LLC served to Italy Macchiarini, 444 Park Plaza, Brooklyn, New York 11228. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity.

QUESTER ENTERPRISES LLC, Articles of Org. filed N.Y. Sec. of State (SSNY) 27th day of February, 2006. Office in Kings Co. SSNY desig. agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 86 Carlton Avenue, Suite 2B, Brooklyn, New York 11205. Reg. agt. upon whom process may be served: Spiegel & Utrera, P.A., P.C. 45 John Street, NYC 10038, 1 (800) 576-1100. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Smartmom a big mouth to little sis

LAST WEEK, DIAPER DIVA'S RED-haired daughter, Ducky, celebrated her second birthday and her very first birthday in the United States.

Born in Russia, she spent first year of her life in an orphanage. During the mandated waiting period before the adoption became legal, she celebrated her first birthday with Diaper Diva and Bro-in-Law sitting on small chairs in the orphanage's music room.

Leave it to Diaper Diva, she tracked down party hats, balloons, streamers, and a birthday cake in Perm, Russia (motto: "The Gateway to Siberia"), so they could have a little party for Ducky and her orphanage pals.

Ducky's caregivers at the orphanage said that no parents had ever thrown a birthday party there before. They made tea, set the table, and enjoyed the birthday cake along with Ducky and her new family.

What a difference a year makes. Ducky (right) is a Brooklyn girl now. And Diaper Diva is a seasoned mom. With Smartmom's help, they have both assimilated to baby life in the Slope. Ducky gets around in a MacLaren stroller; wears a chic T-shirt that says, "My other stroller is a Bugaboo"; goes to Music Together classes, as well as swimming and tumbling at Eastern Athletic; and eats low-fat corn muffins at CornMuffCo.

And she had a big Park Slope-style birthday party last week. Not only was it Ducky's first Brooklyn birthday, it was also the kid's first birthday party organized by Diaper Diva (although she's always been a big help to Smartmom).

True to form, she had the event planned to a "T." Smartmom was full of advice, but Diaper Diva seemed to know what to do all by herself: the invitations went out weeks earlier; she'd purchased all the necessary Elmo party regalia; she hired Ducky's Music Together teacher to entertain.

Still, Smartmom, wanting to make sure Diaper Diva did everything just right, accompanied her to Little Things for the all-important goodie bags. While shopping, Smartmom was full of sage party wisdom: You don't want balloons in assorted colors (the kids will fight over the pink ones); you invited too many kids (tout le monde knows that you only invite as many kids as your child's age, plus one); remember to serve the cake at the very end of the party (so the kids are home before the sugar rush starts).

Then this kernel of wisdom: give them out just as the kids are leaving (it avoids fights). Mr. Little Things was obviously listening in.

"You sound like a pro," he said with a smile. Diaper Diva was less charitable, joking, "I guess they don't call you 'Smartmom' for nothing."

OK, so maybe Diaper Diva was sick and tired of Smartmom's wisdom. But in the first few months of Monodon, she found it quite helpful.

"But now, it's just so annoying so stop it," Diaper Diva said.

Maybe it was a good thing that Smartmom would be out of town for the actual event (the once-a-year vacation). That way, Diaper Diva could do this birthday ALL BY HERSELF!

But for Smartmom, it would be hard to be 3,000 miles away, not because she wanted to smother her sister, but because it didn't feel right to miss even one of Ducky's milestones.

On birthday, Smartmom and the Oh So Feisty One called Brooklyn and sang "Happy Birthday to You" into the phone three times. Then they listened to Ducky playing in the living room and Diaper Diva setting up for the party.

SMARTMOM AND OSFO WERE swimming in the pool during the time of the party. "The guests are arriving now," Smartmom narrated. And later: "They're probably eating the cupcakes now." She had to stop herself from calling Diaper Diva during the party. That would be really annoying, wouldn't it?

That evening Smartmom called her sister in Park Slope to get the full post-mortem. From all reports it was a great party. Ducky was a little cautious at first when the kids came in. She was very clingy and sat on Diaper Diva's lap for much of the party. There were a few last-minute cancellations, so Smartmom's sister ended up with too many gorgeously decorated cupcakes, extra party bags, and multi-colored balloons.

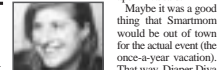
"Did you ever miss one of our parties?" Smartmom asked Diaper Diva on the phone. "Maybe one or two."

That made Smartmom feel better. Smartmom asked her to freeze four cupcakes for the family. As soon as they get off the red-eye next week, their first stop will be Diaper Diva's for a belated birthday breakfast. Cupcakes and all.

And Smartmom promised herself she would offer absolutely no advice.

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford



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Hillary flips on a-park-ments

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

That didn't take long. Sen. Hillary Clinton bucked on last week's headline-generating opposition to a controversial state plan for a condo-and-open space development on the Brooklyn waterfront.

As reported by The Brooklyn Papers, Clinton condemned aspects of the so-called Brooklyn Bridge Park at a Sunset Park campaign stop on Aug. 9. Her comments were also reported in the Daily News.

The current plan requires the 1.3-mile-long waterfront development linking DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights to be self-sustaining. Its upkeep would be paid for through maintenance fees on the private luxury housing within the project.

Last week, Clinton questioned that scheme, saying, "If parks had to be self-sustaining, would anyone have ever built a park?"

The state's junior senator also called the plan "disingenuous," adding, "It's not luxury housing we need. We absolutely need affordable housing."

But this Wednesday, Clinton sent a painstakingly nuanced letter to the Brooklyn Bridge Development Corporation —

The Brooklyn Paper

HILLARY RIPS 'PARK' CONDOS

Calls luxury homes on waterfront 'disingenuous'




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H2-WOE!

How The Brooklyn Papers covered the story last week.

the state agency overseeing the project — suddenly expressing support for the self-sustainability requirement.

"Although I believe public revenues should support public assets...like parks and their maintenance, I understand that

cities across the nation, including New York, have had to struggle to find dedicated revenue sources to fund park maintenance," wrote Clinton.

Going further, Clinton also took at face value a state contention that the amount of luxury housing could decrease if revenue from it exceeds current projections — a prospect that some opponents of the state plan believe is laughable.

"I was joking about how long it would take all of the Brooklyn elected officials to get to Hillary [to make her change her position] — I was guessing it would be less than 10 days," said Roy Sloane, a Cobble Hill community leader who was involved in an earlier park design, but opposes the current plan.

"I think every mayor and governor across America will look at this project and say, 'Look, all we have to do is add a couple of luxury apartments, and we can get parks off our tax rolls,'" added Sloane.

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HEALTH, MIND & BODY

New OB/GYN head at NY Methodist

New York Methodist Hospital

Vincent Pillari, MD, was recently named chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope.

Dr. Pillari joins the hospital after serving as residency program director and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center of New York, Staten Island Division.

Born and raised in Astoria, Queens, Pillari credits friends of the family as the driving force behind his decision to enter into medicine.

"I listened to them talk about what it was like to be a doctor and their passion rubbed off on me," he said.

Pillari finds the opportunity to make a patient's life more comfortable one of the best aspects of his profession. The other: "Being a part of one of the greatest joys in a woman's life—giving birth," said Pillari, who has three children of his own.

Pillari graduated from the Loyola University School of Medicine and completed his residency at the State University of New York, Upstate Medical Center.

"As a student, I rotated through the various depart-

ments and felt that obstetrics and gynecology was a unique field because it encompassed many different areas of medicine," he said.

"I believe that my past experience and knowledge will help me to support and further strengthen the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NYM," said Pillari.

One of his goals is to work closely with the chief of uro-

gynecology, Marisa Mastropietro, MD, and other specialists at NYM, to offer new services such as pelvic reconstruction.

"I have found the new minimally invasive procedures to be very successful as a treatment option for women suffering from pelvic disorders such as incontinence," he said.

Among the conditions treated at various local hospitals including Maimonides Medical

Center in Borough Park and Coney Island Hospital, Pillari was chief of obstetrics and gynecology and a Lieutenant Commander at the Patuxent River Naval Air Base in Maryland.

He is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a member of numerous medical organizations including the Association of Professors of

Gynecology and Obstetrics and the Medical Society of the State of New York. He holds the position of professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at the New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York.

"Dr. Pillari is known to be an outstanding teacher and clinician," said Stanley Sherbell, MD, executive vice president for medical affairs at NYM. "He has a wonderful reputa-

tion with both nursing and physician staff members and we are excited to have him join the hospital."

New York Methodist Hospital is a voluntary, acute-care teaching facility houses 612 inpatient beds (including bassinets) and provides services to 30,000 outpatients each year. An additional 350,000 outpatient visits and services are logged annually.

NYM Women's health program offers relief

New York Methodist Hospital

Loss of bladder or bowel control—otherwise known as incontinence, a condition of pelvic floor dysfunction—occurs in women of all ages and affects one in 10 women over the age of 65.

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NYM's Women's Health Physical Therapy Program offers evaluation and

treatment for musculoskeletal disorders caused by pelvic floor dysfunction and/or pregnancy. NYM serves a large population of new mothers, some of whom suffer pain as a result of pregnancy-associated pelvic floor dysfunction.

Among the conditions treated are urinary incontinence, interstitial cystitis, fe-

cal incontinence, and constipation.

For more information about the NYM's Women's Health Physical Therapy Program please call (718) 369-8055 (a physician's referral is needed for an appointment). For more information about the hospital's urogynecology program call (718) 246-8500.

cal incontinence, and constipation.

For more information about the NYM's Women's Health Physical Therapy Program please call (718) 369-8055 (a physician's referral is needed for an appointment). For more information about the hospital's urogynecology program call (718) 246-8500.

Safe Horizons offers help for post-9-11 syndrome

for The Brooklyn Papers

As the fifth anniversary of the 9-11 attack approaches, Ground Zero has begun to rebuild. But thousands of people still can't do the same. The wound of that day and

its horrific aftermath keeps getting reopened before a scab can form.

"We get calls from new clients whenever relevant news breaks, such as the recent airline plot in the U.K.," said Eric Katzman of Safe Horizons,

a service which offers free counseling.

"There are also many people who quietly suffer and don't realize that what they are feeling are normal symptoms for someone who was exposed to a traumatic event."

These symptoms can include anger, depression, sleep difficulties and social withdrawal—and they can lead to alcohol and substance abuse.

"For many New Yorkers, just seeing or hearing a low-flying

airplane, hearing sirens or very loud noises can set off reactions in them," explains Katzman.

The Safe Horizon Counseling Center can be reached at (347) 328-8110, and the number of the Crisis Support Hotline is (800) 621-HOPE.

—Rebecca Ballhaus

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